

**MUHLBERG SESQUICENTENNIAL
REMARKS**

HON. PAUL McHALE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 1997

Mr. McHALE Mr. Speaker, this morning I rise to pay tribute to a distinguished liberal arts college in my district which opened its doors in 1848 as a military institution. I am honored and proud to announce today that during the coming academic year the college will celebrate its 150th anniversary. That college is Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA.

As I stand here in the House Chamber talking about Muhlenberg College, I can almost feel the presence of the Muhlenberg family. The first Speaker of this House was Frederick Augustus Conrad Muhlenberg, the son of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, the founder of the Lutheran Church in America for whom this college is named. His brother John Peter Gabriel and several of their great-grandchildren also served here. In all, six Muhlenbergs served as Members of the U.S. Congress. Likenesses of these great German-Americans can be found on campus as reminders of the college's historic ties to the Lutheran Church and to a young America.

Muhlenberg values its Judeo-Christian traditions which have shaped the liberal arts curriculum offered to its students. The college's mission is to develop students who "will achieve responsible independence and display full respect for the freedom and diversity which characterize human beings." In the mutual pursuit of this mission, the members of the board of trustees, faculty, and administration remain firmly committed to the belief that a "liberal arts education is the most humanly satisfying and pragmatically viable." Students are reminded often that learning is done in a variety of settings with small classes, limited enrollment, a strong student-faculty relationship and a high degree of student involvement in the life and governance of the college. Muhlenberg students graduate not only with a degree, but a deeper understanding of life.

Influencing the ongoing success of Muhlenberg College and its students in president Arthur R. Taylor. In his inauguration address in 1992, this former president of CBS quoted John Henry Newman, who said many hundreds of years ago, "The purpose of all education is to find a life, not just a livelihood." As the most passionate champion for this small, independent college, he has set the course saying, "Let us be known in the future, as we have in the past, by the quality of the students we graduate * * * let us be known for those who will tackle the problems of the environment, disease and hunger, poverty and homelessness * * * known for those who will rebuild America * * * known for those who support society's causes."

President Taylor, together with the faculty and administration, has built a global reputation. Each year more and more applications are received from prospective students with over one-third of the accepted students ranking in the top 10th of their high school class. Students study abroad, they learn foreign languages, they prepare for business in the global marketplace. The quality of the Muhlenberg academic experience has been recognized by Phi Beta Kappa and 13 other national honor societies with chapters at the college.

Mr. Speaker, I take great pride in holding an honorary doctor of laws degree from this noble college. I leave you with president Taylor's own words: "Please understand that this old college, this old clipper ship, regardless of what storm may come, will sail on, top royals flying and gallants set." I know you will join me in applauding Muhlenberg College's 150th anniversary and saluting her next 150 years.

CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 1997

Mr. CALLAHAN Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to recognize Christ Episcopal Church, Alabama's oldest Protestant church, which this year is celebrating its 175th anniversary serving the people of God.

Located in the historic district in downtown Mobile, Christ Episcopal stands at its original construction site of 1822. Like the rest of Mobile, the church, too, has grown and changed over the years, constantly striving to meet the needs of its parishioners.

Originally Protestants from several different denominations came together at this site to worship as well as to serve the community. However, on February 26, 1828, a group met to establish and organize the Protestant Episcopal congregation. It was at this time that the church gained the name Christ Church and the cornerstone was laid for the present sanctuary in 1835.

Over the past 175 years, Christ Episcopal Church has continued to grow and prosper. During this time, it has withstood the winds of hurricanes, the pain of yellow fever, the heat from fires, and the rage of war, and in so doing, Christ Episcopal has truly become a landmark, not just in Mobile, but throughout Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, Christ Episcopal Church officially celebrates its 175th anniversary on Sunday, September 7, 1997. At this time, I wish to commend its parishioners and members for their hard work, dedication, and love of God, and extend to them my very best wishes for much continued success in the years to come.

**TRIBUTE TO FOREIGN LANGUAGES
IN SCHOOLS**

HON. BOB SCHAFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 1997

Mr. BOB SCHAFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to share some essays written by Colorado students regarding the educational benefits of learning different languages from around the world. Education is key to the continued success of this great Nation, and it is good to know that these students realize this crucial factor.

MATTHEW WEBER, SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, GRADE 2

I think that kids should learn different languages, because when they grow up, their

job might be going around the world and they probably won't know the language for the place they are in if they don't learn when they are small, so that's one of my thoughts. The other thought is that kids have fun learning different languages.

Here's another example, on Sunday a lady from Germany will visit me and I will want to know German to talk to her. Here's another example, I need to know more Spanish to talk to my foreign language teacher.

MALGOSIA WILCZKIEWICZ, BRECKENRIDGE
ELEMENTARY, 5TH GRADE

Languages around the world are important. Knowing another language can help other people that come from other places and don't speak your language. I came from Poland four years ago and didn't speak any English. Luckily there was a Polish boy that spoke Polish and could communicate to me and help me with my work. Other reasons that it is important to speak another language are because if you want to be an attendant and get trips to other countries; you need to be able to communicate with people. You need to talk to people to see what they need or want. If you want to be a translator for the President or someone else you need to know other languages to translate. These are just some reasons why other languages are important to me, but there are a lot more.

DANIEL MC VICKER, COLORADO ACADEMY, 11TH
GRADE

I am an eleventh-grade student at Colorado Academy, and I am concerned with the increased budget cuts in foreign language programs of our public schools. Even though I am not currently a public school student, I am concerned that, due to the changing nature of social and business interaction in the twenty-first century, our public schools will not be competitive enough in the "global village." Due to the Internet, more people are communicating faster and more easily and more cheaply with one another. Even now, we can see the progression of business on the "net." As other countries become more advanced with their technology the web will cease to be a solely English speaking dominated entity and become more like what its name implies: "World Wide." Students without a firm foundation in a language (or two) could easily become lost in the many business opportunities available on this revolutionary communications network, and lose out to other countries' students where part of the curriculum is the study of another language.

On a more personal note, my experience with learning French (and previous to my time at Colorado Academy, German) has been both pleasurable and helpful. Due to my exposure to both languages, my English vocabulary has been enriched, my knowledge of syntax and proper grammar has increased, and my knowledge of history has grown as well. Also, the knowledge of these two languages has been helpful in dealing with the cultures of the countries that speak those languages, in my visits to France and Germany. With an enhanced knowledge of the culture (thanks to my classes), I was more easily able to interact with the natives, utilizing another benefit of studying a foreign language.

Being knowledgeable of another country's culture is another reason to study a foreign language. In this time of "Global Economy," not knowing about the idiosyncrasies of another culture can be business suicide. Even with a translator, one can still do things with the body that can be considered very insulting to a foreign culture. If the person who accidentally does these things is trying to negotiate a business deal, he will have a lot of explaining to do if he has insulted those with whom he is trying to negotiate.